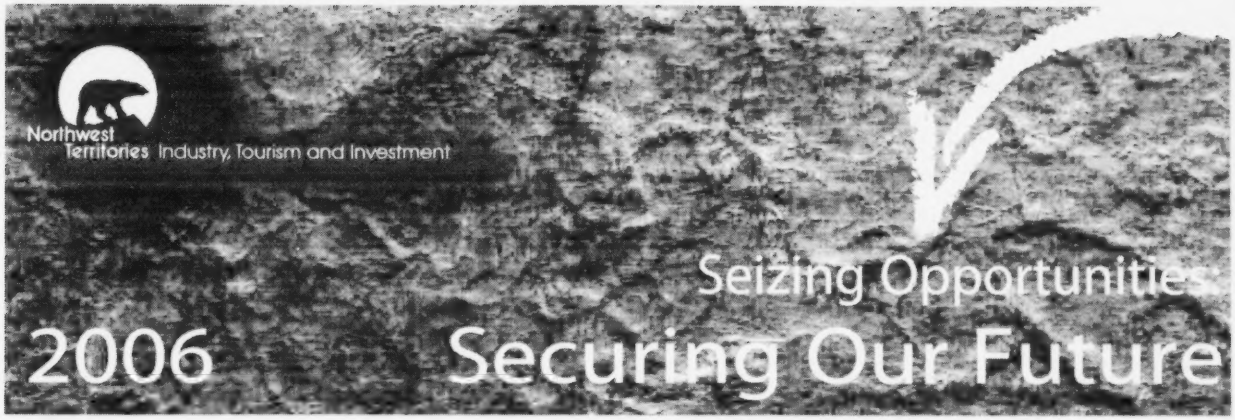

In the South Slave Region

The South Slave Region is the transportation gateway supporting the economic potential and growth within the Northwest Territories. The key to securing sustainable economic benefits in the Region is the continued development of the small and medium sized enterprises that provide support to the Mining, Oil and Gas, Energy, Tourism and Traditional Economy sectors.

As part of our role within the NWT's vibrant and wide-ranging economic environment – we are balancing our efforts to promote sustainable opportunities in the energy, mines and petroleum resources industries with the development of a diversified economy throughout the NWT.

We are sharpening our focus to improve the overall effectiveness of our plans and services. Representatives of Industry, Tourism and Investment are here to provide you with support and assistance in the establishing, expansion and modernization of your business. We can help ensure that you and your venture have access to programs and resources to maximize benefits from new development in the NWT.

How can you and your venture benefit from new developments? ITI program delivery staff offer reliable, up-to-date business information, assistance and planning advice. Our key personnel will be continue to develop communications networks with business, municipal representatives, First Nations, Métis and local business organizations in their communities. Call or visit your regional business development office to see how we can help your business to grow.

Brendan Bell

Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment

Alexandra Falls. Photo Micheal Morse

Goals

To encourage economic development in the South Slave Region, your regional development team will:

- Promote and support a diversified economy that provides opportunities to residents.
- Promote and support the development of business opportunities, including agriculture, traditional economy, tourism, investment, manufacturing, and secondary industries.
- Promote the sustainable development of natural resources that respects the conservation and protection of the environment for our future generations.
- Promote and support the efficient development, utilization and marketing of energy resources to achieve self-sufficiency, maximize economic opportunities, and realize affordable energy costs.
- Secure economic and employment opportunities from responsible resource development for Northwest Territories residents.
- Develop partnerships with individuals, businesses, communities, Aboriginal organizations and other governments to foster prosperity and community self-reliance.

Small and Medium Enterprises

Regional resource staff from the South Slave will:

- Assist clients in accessing capital funding and researching other financing options.
- Provide professional advice and assistance to clients in areas such as; development of business plans; funding applications; business management services; and coordinating business management training.
- Work with local businesses, community governments, key stakeholders and other agencies to develop community-based infrastructure to provide lasting benefits to the community and region.
- Assist individuals, businesses, communities, Aboriginal organizations and multi-party corporate ventures in developing new and expanding business opportunities.

Mines and Minerals

Mining may return to the South Slave Region with the proposed Pine Point Pilot Project east of Hay River. This is one of many exploration activities that will provide opportunities for our Region's strategic road, rail and marine transportation links. These key links, combined with an expansion of our service sector, expediting and transport services, will ensure residents and communities in the South Slave benefit from the re-emergence of our mining and mineral exploration sector.

Site preparation - Cameron Hills gas exploration. Photo ITI - Robert Redshaw

Oil and Gas

Interest in the exploration and production of significant natural gas reserves in the Cameron Hills continues to grow, as do efforts to ensure NWT residents and businesses benefit from this development. Hay River and immediate area is well positioned to capitalize on development in the South Slave Region and from the proposed Mackenzie Gas Project. Having the NWT's only rail terminal and direct access to a river barging transportation system will provide a competitive advantage for regionally based ventures.

Taltson River hydro dam - northeast of Fort Smith. Photo NWT Power Corporation

Energy

Growing awareness of the impacts of global warming and climate change is placing increased pressure on government and industry to address environmental issues, energy conservation and the development of alternatives energies. The proposed expansion of the Taltson hydroelectric operation is an excellent example of the Government's integrated energy management strategy at work. This Project will provide significant economic opportunities for businesses.

We will:

- Identify emerging energy opportunities and promote plans to secure business opportunities in energy management and conservation.

Tourism

The opportunities for sustainable growth of the tourism sector in the South Slave Region are boundless. In support of Tourism 2010 – A Tourism Plan for the NWT, we will foster a viable tourism sector in our communities to encourage and support new and existing tourism businesses.

We will also assist in identifying new and expanded tourism by:

- Supporting and encouraging the development of local tourism strategies for communities.
- Enhancing the capacity development of our Region's hospitality, business management, marketing and promotional sectors through training and skill enhancement
- Working with tourism operators and the service sector to develop market-ready tourism products while enhancing existing products and services.
- Working with communities to ensure promotion and marketing of our Region's natural attractions, including Wood Buffalo National Park, Great Slave Lake, and Slave River.
- Assisting communities and representatives of our regional tourism industry to support and participate in NWT Tourism marketing and development initiatives.

Parks

The South Slave Region boasts an extensive parks system. Regional staff are responsible for both overseeing Park operations and formulating individual parks development plans and a regional master plan governing capital expansion and improvements for our parks.

Our objectives are to:

- Operate and enhance facilities, including an online registration for campgrounds, starting in 2007.
- Provide tourists and local park users with quality experiences and service satisfaction by ensuring park facilities are operated efficiently and by improving customer services, park infrastructure and development of themed attractions.
- Begin work towards the modernization of the 60th Parallel Visitors Centre.
- Assist communities, local governments and Aboriginal organizations to identify, prepare and submit plans for the development of regional tourism attraction services and infrastructures.
- Begin work to generate increased visitor access to our Region's natural attractions, including: Wood Buffalo National Park, Great Slave Lake, Slave River, and identify essential infrastructure and service support requirements.

Trap Setting - Ken and Mary Schaefer instructing JBT Elementary School students - Fort Smith. Photo ENR - Jamie Chambers

Traditional Economy

Traditional Economy is more than hunting, fishing and trapping. It includes the processing of natural materials into usable and sellable products.

Working closely with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources we will continue to:

- Improve the delivery of financial support to traditional harvesters by promoting Genuine Mackenzie Valley Fur Program, grubstake assistance, training and education.
- Promote and support the development of the commercial arts and crafts industry, and encourage the use of locally harvested resources.
- Promote locally produced arts and crafts through displays and literature at community and territorial visitor centers, airports and other points of tourist entry.
- Promote existing programs and support new agricultural initiatives.
- In cooperation with the NWT Fishermen's Federation, continue to assist the commercial fishing industry to improve harvest efficiencies and quality, and support and encourage improvements in processing practices and expansion into domestic NWT markets.

Economic Diversification

A more diversified economic base encourages small businesses to capitalize on opportunities that occur and to further their strategic business advantages.

To assist in pursuing regional economic diversification we will continue to:

- Facilitate, promote and support the development of "added-value" for local products or services, and expand the knowledge, skills and creativity of business operators.
- Liaise with local and regional organizations such as "The Artists of South Slave Society" to establish new and unique methods to assist, promote and market locally based arts and crafts products.
- Promote the expansion of industrial development services in communities utilizing our Region's position as a transportation hub.
- Investigate and promote opportunities for artists and communities to invest in areas of music production, film and multi-media productions and the performing arts.

Bison grazing - Salt Plains (WBNP). Photo ITI - Mike Couvrette

REGIONAL CONTACTS

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Regional Programs Coordinator (867) 872-6432

Trade and Investment
Manager, Trade & Investment (867) 872-6433
Business Development Officer (867) 872-6434
Economic Development Officer (867) 872-6435

Tourism and Parks
Tourism Development Officer (867) 872-6439

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Hay River NT X0E 0R2

Trade and Investment
Business & Petroleum Advisor (867) 875-5561
Business Development Officer (867) 875-5562

Tourism and Parks
Manager, Tourism & Parks (867) 875-5566

FORT PROVIDENCE OFFICE
General Delivery
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Trade and Investment
Economic Development Officer (867) 699-3045

FORT RESOLUTION OFFICE (Community Transfer)
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Fort Providence NT X0E 0L0

Deninu e K'ue First Nation
Economic Development Officer (867) 394-4340

Visit our website at:
www.iti.gov.nt.ca/regions/sslave.htm

Northwest Territories Industry, Tourism and Investment